

18. (Amended) Isolated and purified monoclonal [Monoclonal] antibodies or their Fv, Fab, F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments, according to claim 16, which are capable of recognizing *T. equigenitalis* proteins selected from the group consisting of *T. equigenitalis* proteins of 150 kDa, 120 kDa, 52.7 kDa and 22 (LPS) kDa.

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19. (Amended) Isolated and purified monoclonal [Monoclonal] antibodies, which can be obtained from hybridomas [hybrids] by a method comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice immunized against [by means of] an inactivated strain of the species *T. equigenitalis* or extract(s) of such a strain,

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cloned  
cloning and selecting according to the capacity of the monoclonal antibodies contained in their culture supernatant to recognize an epitope or epitopes of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*, and to not exhibit a crossed reaction with an epitope or epitopes selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different *Taylorella* species or epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*, recovering the required monoclonal antibodies, and optionally purifying said monoclonal antibodies.

16. (Amended) A method of obtaining monoclonal antibodies according to claim 16, comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice immunized against [by means of] a strain of the species *T. equigenitalis* or extract(s) from such a strain,

Sub E3 screening hybridomas whose culture supernatants contain a monoclonal antibody that exhibits [exhibit] a positive reaction with a bacterium of the species *T.*

*equigenitalis* or a fragment thereof, without exhibiting a crossed reaction with an epitope selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different *Taylorella* species, and epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*.

C6 contd selecting by cloning the hybridomas with respect to their reactivity, in relation to *T. equigenitalis*,

recovering the monoclonal antibodies, and  
optionally purifying said monoclonal antibodies.

21/ 23/ 22/ (Amended) A method of obtaining monoclonal antibodies according to claim 20, comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice immunized against [by means of] monoclonal antibodies or their Fv, Fab, and F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments, which recognize an epitope of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*, and which do not exhibit a crossed reaction with an epitope or epitopes selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different *Taylorella* species, and epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*,

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screening hybridomas whose culture supernatants contain a monoclonal antibody that exhibits [exhibit] a positive reaction with one of the said monoclonal antibodies or their fragments,  
selecting by cloning the hybridomas, and  
recovering the required anti-antibodies.

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30.  
39. (Amended) Kits for application of a method of identification of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis* in a specimen or in a culture, which include:

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody or fragment according to claim 16, [an immunogenic protein and a monoclonal anti-antibody or Fv, Fab, and F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment thereof, wherein said protein and anti-antibody or fragment thereof are capable of interacting with said monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof,]

reagents, for carrying out the intended immunologic reaction,  
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody reactions, and  
instructions for use.

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35.  
34. (Amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein the non antigen-antibody reaction is blocked by saturation of the collected specimen through incubation with [obtained by means of] a serum [from] which does not contain anti-*T. equigenitalis* antibodies [have been removed].